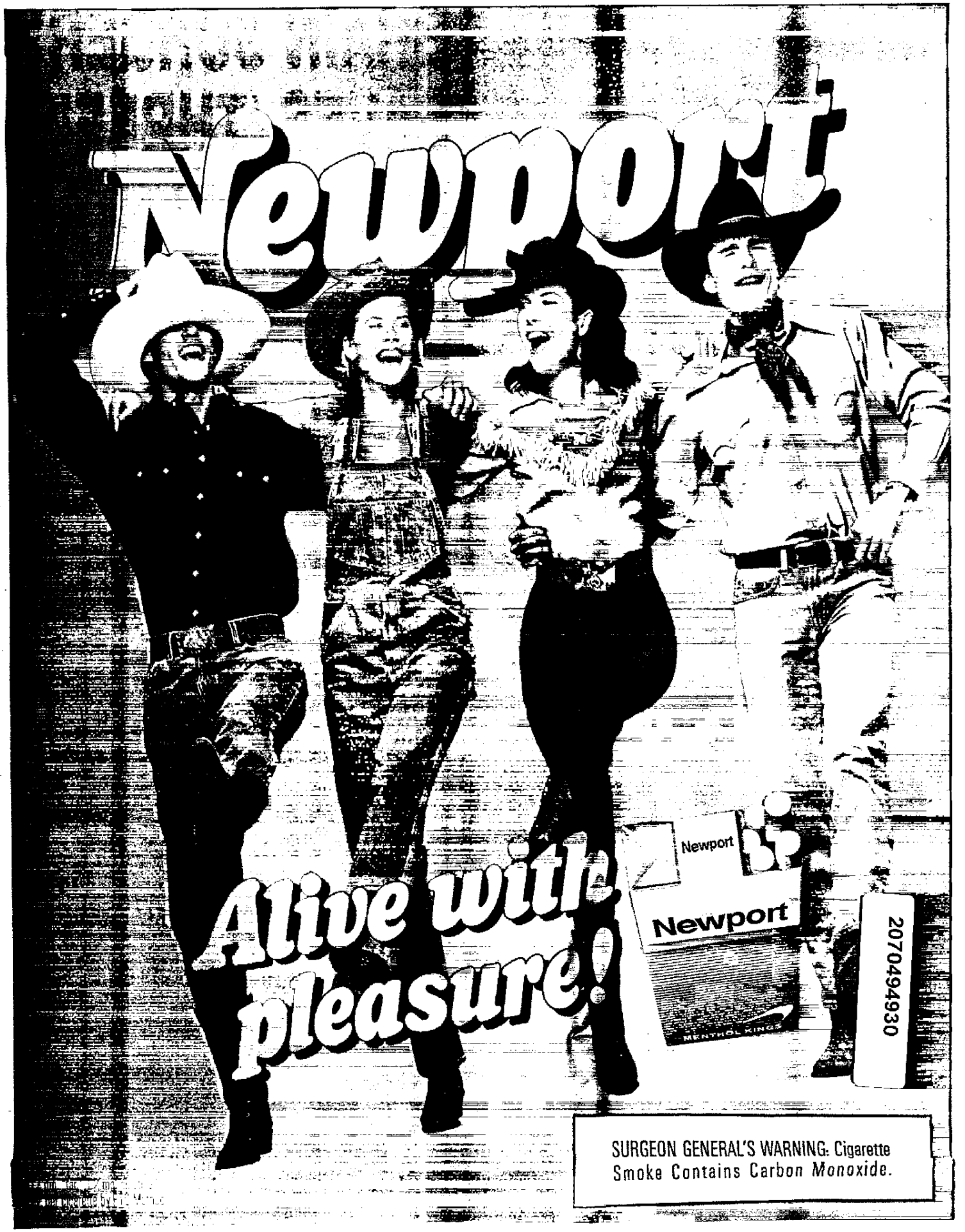

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/lyln0004

NEWPORT #850
NATIONAL ENQUIRER
6/3/97
LTS ADVERTISING SERVICES (516) 265-0404

BRA[illegible]Y SAVES 'THREE'S COMPANY' STAR FROM SUICIDE

"Three's Company" star Norman Fell reveals a horribly painful ailment nearly drove him to kill himself.

"Brain surgery saved me from suicide!" divulged Fell.

The actor, who played crotchety landlord Stanley Roper on the '70s sitcom, suffered from a rare, crippling nerve disorder that destroyed his life.

But thanks to the scalpel and an extraordinary determination to fight back, he's fully recovered and wants to share his joy with ENQUIRER readers.

The 72-year-old star has been able to return to acting and dating — and is as strong as a bull.

"I start every day with 200 sit-ups followed by a swim or brisk walk. And I've been able to go back to performing without fear of collapsing from pain in the middle of the scene."

The actor's pain was excruciating until delicate neurosurgery saved him, Fell revealed in an exclusive interview.

"Two years ago I was suffering from trigeminal neuralgia. Without warning I'd be stricken with a pain so crippling, it felt like a razor-sharp knife was being thrust all the way up my nostril straight through to my eyeball!

"One pain spasm landed me on the floor in the middle of a restaurant. Everyone came running to my side, thinking I'd suffered a stroke or heart attack.

"Doctors gave me pills and injections to help ease the pain but nothing worked.

"If I hadn't found relief through surgery, suicide would have been my only option to end the suffering."

Back in late 1995 when the actor was experiencing great pain from the disease, we told readers of his brave battle — and they responded with a tremendous outpouring of love.

With gratitude he recalls, "Concerned ENQUIRER readers sent get-well cards from all over the world."

Dr. Ronald Rich, a Santa Monica neurosurgeon who performed Norman's brain surgery, said, "In America, trigeminal neuralgia strikes about four out of every 100,000 people."

Fell — a divorced father of two adult daughters — beamed: "After the surgery, I was able to return to activities I feared I'd lost forever.

"I even called up a lady friend who lives in my condo complex to ask her out on a date.

"It's terrific being able to take a lady out without worrying about collapsing on the dance floor in the middle of the Macarena!"

— *WILLIAM KECK*

FEISTY NORMAN FELL feels like a new man.

TODAY: Olivia is still gettin' in her licks at age 48.

alia, where she owns a nch and hosts a TV ow called "Wild Life."

"Olivia's a completley anged woman," said the urce. "Since she beat ncer, her whole empha- has been on cleaning the environment, help- save endangered spe- cies and aiding victims of breast cancer.

"She still does some commercial work to help pay the bills and she stars in an infomercial for a line of skin care products. But Olivia's happiest when she's working for good causes or spending time with Chloe. And she's perfectly content to be a former pop star.

"Olivia told me, 'I'm wonderfully happy bringing up my little girl. It's the most important thing I could ever do with my life.'"

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/lyln0004